

Octob. 30. 1693.

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not in use

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W^{HEREAS} it was witness'd against
Sbadrach Cooke on Tuesday the 17th.
of this present Month, at the Old
Bailey, That he did forge a Pasport to France
in my Lord Nottingham's Name.

I Sbadrach Cooke, Priest of the Church
of E N G L A N D, having utterly disown'd
the Fact at the Time and Place aforesaid, do
here Again, upon the Receiving the Blessed
Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, and as
I hope for any Benefits by my Saviour's Death
and Sufferings, solemnly declare that I am
altogether Ignorant and Innocent of this
Matter, and that I know nothing directly or
indirectly relating thereunto, either as to my
self, or any other; and that I am not con-
scious of any thing in any sort or kind, nor
ever was concerning the Counterfeiting my
Lord Nottingham's Hand or Seal. This I de-
clare upon the sincere Faith of a Christian,
without any reserve, in the full and due Sense
of these Words, or any other, that can express
or signify an undisguised intire Innocence in
this Case.

I do here also declare, That I do from the
very bottom of my Heart, as becometh a
Christian in this most holy Duty, forgive
such that raised this great Scandal of me, or
that occasioned my Suffering upon it.

S H A. COOKE.

Declared in the presence of us
who did Communicate with
him.

Ralph Taylor, D.D.
Simon Lowth, D. D.
William Carr.
Rich. Hughes.

Q1.6.1030
Many having been led into a Mistake by, and some
still cavelling and disputing upon, these Words,
[Mr. Cooke said that what he did was out of a Principle of
Conscience] published in a Paper entituled, *The Proceedings, &c.*
printed for Ric. Baldwin near the *Oxford Arms* in *Warwick-lane*,
As if Mr. Cooke had really own'd, and justify'd the Fact
charg'd upon him by pleading Conscience for it.

I *Ralph Taylor*, D. D. out of a due regard to Truth and
Peace, and out of a sincere desire to satisfie all unpreju-
dic'd Enquirers after the same in this particular, do declare,
That being present at the *Old Bailey* on the 17th of this
Month, when Mr. Cooke was call'd to answer what was laid
to his Charge, I did then observe the said Mr. Cooke most
vehemently to deny, * even with an Impre-
cation, what was testify'd against him con-
cerning his Counterfeiting my Lord Not-
tingham's Hand and Seal; and did hear
him very Solemnly and Zealously assert his
Innocence, as near as I can remember, in
these Words; *Upon my Salvation I did not
do it: As I hope for Mercy in Heaven I seal'd
no such Paper: Upon the Word of a Priest I did no such thing.*

And what he said of Conscience was before he spoke to the
Fact wherewithal he was charg'd, and had reference not to
what was testify'd or done concerning that particular Fact,
but to what he himself had omitted, and not done, during
the long time of his being in Custody, as the means of pro-
curing his Liberty: Nor was there any thing then said,
that I could perceive by Mr. Cooke, that might give the
least colour or occasion, to any there present, who heard
and observ'd him, to apprehend that he own'd the Coun-
terfeiting of my Lord Nottingham's Hand and Seal, or
that he should say, That he did it out of a Principle of
Conscience.

Ralph Taylor.

Octob. 25. 1693.